Roxbury Community College

Twenty-Fifth Annual Commencement

Friday, June 2, 2000

Three O'Clock pm

Media Arts Center

Roxbury Community College

Years of dreaming and planning came to life in 1973, when Roxbury Community College opened its doors in the Grove Hall area of Roxbury. Despite less than perfect surroundings - its location was a former car dealership - RCC's dedicated faculty, staff, and administration served the educational needs of four hundred students. The College's mission, as it is now, was to provide higher education to those Boston residents who found most other avenues to higher education closed.

A global village, RCC's multicultural and ethnically diverse student population has set it apart from other community colleges in the Commonwealth. Although most of our students are from Boston and surrounding communities, many come from all corners of the world including: North America, Central America, South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. International students also hail from Brazil, China, Trinidad, Peru, Barbados, Nigeria, Haiti, and Jamaica.

In 1975, growth was the impetus for a move to 424 Dudley Street, a former nursing home. This move permitted the expansion and strengthening of academic programs and student services. The college continued to grow, which precipitated another move in 1982 to the former site of Boston State College on Huntington Avenue. As the college continued to shift its service base to meet expanding enrollment, the goal to establish a permanent home for Roxbury Community College in the heart of the communities it serves, remained strong.

With much anticipation and fanfare, Roxbury Community College built its new home as the cornerstone of the Southwest Corridor in the Spring of 1988. This 15 acre campus includes a state-of-the-art Media Arts Building, Academic Building, Administration Building, Student Center, Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center and on-site parking. In addition to the 15 acre Columbus Avenue Campus, Roxbury Community College has an additional campus at 989 Commonwealth Avenue.

With renewed commitment, Roxbury Community College continues its legacy of providing educational opportunities for all who enter its doors.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing

Till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, High as the list'ning skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on till victory is won.

James Weldon Johnson

Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees

Sharif Abdal-Khallaq
Chairman of the Board

Harry J. Sterling, Jr.
Vice Chairman and Treasurer

Alberto B. Calvo

Dr. Allen Counter

Pervis Ryans, Jr.
Secretary

Sophia Cotton
Student Trustee

Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown
President
Roxbury Community College

Roxbury Community College Foundation Board of Directors

Marva F. Nathan
President

William R. Sapers
Vice President

Sylvia A. McDowell
Clerk

Robert A. Williams III
Treasurer

Donna Harris-Lewis

Richard M. Lee

Joan Resnikoff

Dr. Robert Sperber

Gerald M. Tuckman

Sharif Abdal-Khallaq
Ex. Officio

Thomas Fencil
Executive Director

Administration

Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown
President

Dr. Tossie Taylor
Interim Provost

Ms. Monica P. Bond
Dean of Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Barbara Burgess
Dean of Student Affairs

Dr. Nadine Dowling
Chief Development Resources Officer

Dr. Rudolph F. Jones
Dean of Enrollment Management

Mr. Keith McDermott
Director of RLTAC

Ms. Hattie Reid
Assistant Dean, Urban Affairs

Mr. Thomas C. Sweeney
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Raymond Turner
Executive Dean of Information Technology

2000 Commencement Program

Processional	Brent Irvine Quintet
Invocation	Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis
Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing	Audience
Charge to the College	Mr. Sharif Abdal-Khallaq *Chairman, Board of Trustees*
	Dr. Judith Gill *Acting Chancellor* *Mass. Board of Higher Education*
Recognition of Guests	Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown *President*
Introduction of the Valedictorian	Ms. Barbara Burgess *Dean of Student Affairs*
Valedictorian	Ifeoma Mary Eche
Introduction of the Commencement Speaker	Mr. Harry Sterling *Vice Chairman and Treasurer* *Board of Trustees*
Commencement Address	Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. *Harvard University*
Musical Selection	Yusuf Akbar *RCC Student*

Presentation of Degree Candidates	Dr. Tossie Taylor *Interim Provost*
	Ms. Monica Bond *Dean of Curriculum & Instruction*
Conferral of Degrees	Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown *President*
Presentation of Certificates	Ms. Monica Bond *Dean of Curriculum & Instruction*
Conferral of Certificates	Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown *President*
Alumni Charge	Gillian Van Delft *1996 RCC Graduate*
Recognition of Scholarship Recipients	Ms. Marva Nathan *President, RCC Foundation*
Closing Remarks	Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown *President*
Benediction	Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis
Recessional	Brent Irvine Quintet

Reception immediately following ceremony

Candidates for Degrees & Certificates

Name	Major	Degree/Certificate
A		
Abdirashid M. Abdullahi	Pre-Nursing	Associate of Arts
Paulos B. Abraha	Business Administration	Associate of Arts
Miridis C. Acosta	Social Science	Associate of Arts
Yusuf Akbar	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Pakersino Alexis	Bookkeeping	Certificate
Stacy A. Alfred	Business Administration	Associate of Arts
Vashti E. Alves	Medical Secretary	Associate of Science
Mandu I. Anaka	Nursing	Associate of Science
Sifonde I. Anaka	Business Administration	Associate of Arts
Ann-Marie B. Angus	Nursing	Associate of Science
Charity Ada Anyamele	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Eugenia Arroyo	Social Science	Associate of Arts
B		
Madueno T. Barbosa	Word Processing	Associate of Science
Anny Yokasta Bautista	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Louisa C. Blue	Accounting	Associate of Science
Raisa Bodnya	Office Technology	Certificate
Dorothy C. Bowers	Nursing	Associate of Science
Marilyn Lyrece Brookins	Nursing	Associate of Science
Denise Brown	Word Processing	Certificate
Sandra Denise Burdette	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
C		
Julie A. Cabral	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Henry W. Cadogan	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Donny O. Cameron	Business Administration	Associate of Art
Simone Crystal Charles	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Wei Ming Chen	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science Certificate
Jean Romere Cius	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Kimairys A. Colon	Engineering & Architectural Design & CAD	Certificate
Luisa H. Correia	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
D		
Mary Beth Dailey	Pre-Nursing	Associate of Arts
Sharolyn Mareta Davis	Microcomputer Applications	Associate of Science
Willie Grant Dawson	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Nicole Dian DePina	Early Childhood Education	Associate of Science

D *continued*

Phillip Roland Dern	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science/ A.A.
Arnold Diogene	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Louisemaine Dominique	Word Processing	Certificate
Melek Javon Dunn	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Martha Guillermina Duran Rios	Word Processing	Associate of Science

E

*Ifeoma Mary Eche	General Concentration	Associate of Arts

F

Safa O. Fagiri	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Canice A. Farrell	Accounting	Associate of Science
Yewande O. Fashakin	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Natalya V. Fedorova	Accounting	Associate of Science
Keita S. Fennick	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Faraz Firoozabadi	Pre-Engineering	Associate of Arts
Ynnesh K. Francis	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Anthony Hollis Francis	Criminal Justice	Associate of Science

G

Valerie Priscilla Gardner	Social Science	Associate of Arts
Mulu Gedlu	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
John W. Gitau	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Angelica M. Gordon	Social Science	Associate of Arts
Linda Ramona Govind	Nursing	Associate of Science
Marie C. Gracisse	General Concentration	Associate of Arts

H

Walter L. Haynes	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Ghislaine M. Hernandez	Nursing	Associate of Science
Wendy E. Hernandez	Accounting	Associate of Science
	Microcomputer Applications	Certificate
Aden Hussein	Accounting	Associate of Science

I

Loretta A. Ihedioha	Nursing	Associate of Science
Ikechi C. Ihenetu	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science

J

Gracieuse Jean Louis	Early Childhood Education	Associate of Science
Laurent M. Jean-Baptiste	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Jean-Robert Jean-Baptiste	Accounting	Associate of Science
Fayolah Martine Jean-Lestin	Accounting	Associate of Science
Fenia Jeanhilaire	Nursing	Associate of Science
Marie Rose Marjorie Jeanty	General Concentration	Associate of Arts

J continued

Denise Jones	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Susana E. Juarbe	Word Processing	Associate of Science
Janel M. Juba	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
K		
Robinah Kabagenyi	Nursing	Associate of Science
Kasongo Mutoke Kitenge	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Joan S. Krua	Pre-Nursing	Associate of Arts
L		
Abdelmoula Lahlali	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Therisa Lau	Office Technology	Certificate
Julian A. Lorenzo	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Farah Octavie Louis	Nursing	Associate of Science
Betty J. Lu	Word Proccessing	Associate of Science
Yun Hong Luo	Accounting	Associate of Science
M		
Lisa Maddox	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Faduma A. Maow	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Fredlyne Marcelus	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Lulie Mathieu	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Regina Maximo	Word Processing	Associate of Science
Grace C. Mbawuike	Nursing	Associate of Science
David Eugene Meade	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Karlene D. Menzie	Nursing	Associate of Science
Aisha Kaiya Mills	Nursing	Associate of Science
Marcelina A. Miranda	Business Administration	Associate of Arts
Zahra Ahmed Mohamud	Nursing	Associate of Science
Moises Morales	Business Management	Associate of Science
Taisha Natasha Murray	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
N		
Judith Katamba Najjuma	Nursing	Associate of Science
Nho V. Nguyen	Computer Information Systems Engineering & Architectural Design	Associate of Science
Victoria A. Nwachukwu	Pre-Nursing	Associate of Arts
O		
Felix E. Okwesa	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Alexander K. Ore	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Jerry R. Orozco	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Aiwerhoe C. Orumwense-Omoruyi	Nursing	Associate of Science

P		
Teddy C.B.L. Paygai	Business Management	Associate of Science
Doris Marie Petit-Frere	Early Childhood Education	Associate of Science
* Jose Antonio Pina Brandao	Mathematics	Associate of Arts
Alexander Langston Powell	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
R		
Patsy Nadine Rector	Early Childhood Education	Associate of Science
* Kelly A. Ryan	Pre-Nursing	Associate of Arts
S		
Mabinty A. Sammah	Nursing	Associate of Science
Rubin Sindor	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Monica Sirkissoon	Nursing	Associate of Science
Patricia Smith	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science
Margella St. Brice	Nursing	Associate of Science
Jacqueline S. Stanton	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Anasta Sylien-Lormil	Nursing	Associate of Science
T		
Wanda L. Tatum	Word Processing	Certificate
Teferi M. Taye	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Altagracia Y. Tejeda	Word Processing	Certificate
Michelle C. Teleau	Social Science	Associate of Arts
Susan E. Terrell	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Wendell C. Thomas	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Ana Lucia Tovar-Lopez	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Sao Thi Tran	Executive Secretary	Associate of Science
V		
Ritchel Vancol	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Jean Edmond Vertus	Accounting	Associate of Science
W		
Abdirizak A. Warfa	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Sheilla Ann Washington	Bookkeeping	Certificate
Janice M. Watty	Microcomputer Applications	Associate of Science
Cyndi Amanda Weekes	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Randall R. Williams	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Seblewongel Woldeyohannes	Biological Science	Associate of Arts
Sheran J. Woodroffe	Nursing	Associate of Science
Mounkaila Yacouba	Accounting	Associate of Science
Franceana N. Young	General Concentration	Associate of Arts
Ricot P. L. Zephir	Computer Information Systems	Associate of Science

* Highest Honors

Scholarships and Awards

Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson Award

Given annually in memory of one of the original members of RCC's Board of Trustees, the Betty Johnson Award is presented to the graduating student who has earned the highest cumulative grade point average and a minimum of 50 credits at RCC.
Ifeoma Eche, Jose Pina Brandao, Kelly Ryan

Outstanding Female, Outstanding Male

Through the generosity of the Woodbine Associates, these awards are presented to the outstanding female and male graduates whom the faculty has selected on the basis of academic achievement and service to the College and community.
Julie Cabral, Melek Dunn

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship

This scholarship, established in memory of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is presented annually to one or two RCC students who excel in the social science field.
Wendell Thomas, Valerie Gardner

The James H. Caesar Endowed Scholarship.

In 1986, a Roxbury resident established this scholarship to honor the opportunities this country and community have given him. In selecting the recipient, preference is given to graduating students who have attended the Cooper Community Center of Roxbury or the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club. If this criterion does not apply, the scholarship may be awarded to a talented RCC student from the Roxbury community. *Susan Terrell*

The Letitia Garofalo Endowed Scholarship

Established by a native of Quincy, Massachusetts who used her knowledge of languages to live and work in communities around the world, this endowed memorial scholarship is presented to an RCC graduate on the basis of academic merit and financial need.
Seblewongel Woldeyohannes

The Claudia J. Tucker Award

This award is given annually in honor of the mother of RCC professor Royal C. Tucker to an outstanding RCC transfer student. *Valerie Gardner*

The Therese Dutile Giles Award.

Given annually by the Giles family in memory of their mother, this award is presented to a student who, having mastered a new language in our ESOL Department, is now graduating with an associate's degree, and who has provided service to the College or community.
Louisa Correia

The Francina E. Copeland Gelzer Endowed Scholarship

Given in the name of a lifelong resident of the Greater Roxbury community with a strong commitment to education, this award is presented to an RCC student on the basis of outstanding scholastic achievement. The recipient is an African American graduate who

has maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who has been accepted in a four-year college degree program. *Cyndi Weekes*

The Thomas Lowe Award

This award is presented to an RCC student whose academic achievement and service to the community and the College exemplify the mission of Roxbury Community College. *Kelly Ryan*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc./Psi Omega Chapter Award

This award is given to an outstanding African American female graduate who is transferring to a four-year institution. *Stacy Alfred*

The Sapers Scholars Award

is offered to RCC graduates who transfer to a four-year college to study for a Bachelor's Degree. This special "50—50" award, made available through the generosity of the William R. Sapers family of Boston, consists of a scholarship and a transfer loan.
Simone Charles, Wei Ming Chen, Mary Ifeoma Eche, Yewande Fashakin, Ynnesh Francis, Valerie Gardner, Angelica Gordon-Brown, Alexander Ore, Jason Raymond, Abdirizak Warfa.

Foster Furcolo Scholarship

This scholarship honors former Governor Foster Furcolo who played a major role in creating public community colleges in Massachusetts. Each community college nominates one graduate whose grade point average is at least 3.5. The scholarship covers tuition and most fees at the University of Massachusetts Boston. *Jean E. Vertus*

Boston University/Roxbury Community College Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Boston University to support the fine work of Roxbury Community College in preparing students to continue post-secondary education. For the twentieth year, two scholarships are being awarded. The nominees are: *Melek Dunn, Abdelmoula Lahlali*

University Scholars

Massachusetts Community College Presidents nominate the top academically ranked student of his/her graduating class who has earned a transfer designated associate degree. The scholar is then awarded a scholarship to be used at one of the university campuses. *Kelly Ryan, UMass Amherst*

University of Massachusetts Amherst Community College Scholarships

To reward and recognize students for meritorious academic achievement, two awards are offered each year to joint admissions students achieving a grade point average of 3.3 or higher. *Kurt Edwards, Luisa Correia*

Gates Millennium Scholars

Funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this award program promotes academic excellence and enhances access to higher education for outstanding low-income students. The following RCC students are nominees:
Stacy Alfred, Julie Cabral, Wei Ming Chen, Melek Dunn, Kurt Edwards, Cyndi Weekes

Departmental Graduation Awards

Departmental scholarships are presented to graduating students for outstanding achievement in a specific field of study.

Accounting	Natalya Fedorova Yun Hong Luo Jean Vertus
Business Administration	Stacy Alfred Sifonde Anaka
Computer Information Systems	Wei Ming Chen Phillip Dern Felix Okwesa Alexander Ore Sharolyn Davis
Word Processing	Martha Duran Rios Regina Maximo
Biological Science	Yusuf Akbar Abdelmoula Lahlali David Meade
Mathematics	Jose Pina Brandao
Pre Nursing	Mary Daley
Nursing	Ann-Marie Angus Linda Govind Loretta Ihedioha Fenia Jeanhilaire Grace Mbawuike Karlene Menzie

Early Childhood Education	Jean Louis Gracieuse
Criminal Justice	Anthony Francis
General Concentration	Charity Anyamele
	Eugenia Arroyo
	Simone Charles
	Ifeoma Eche
	Marie Gracisse
	Denise Jones
	Janel Juba
	Cyndi Weekes
Social Science	Angelica Gordon

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN JUNIOR COLLEGES

Roxbury Community College Nominees

Stacey Alfred
Julie Cabral
Simone Charles
Melek Dunn
Ifeoma Mary Eche
Angela Gordon
Aisha Mills
Kelly Ryan
Rubin Sindor

Commencement Address

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.

Harvard University

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. is the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Faculty Director of Clinical Programs at Harvard Law School. A prominent legal theorist, he has made a reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the constitution for everyone equally under the Law. He is the Founder and Director of the Criminal Justice Institute and the Saturday School Program. He is the Co-author of ***Beyond the Rodney King Story: An Investigation of Police Conduct in Minority Communities,*** and has published law review articles in many of the nations prestigious law journals. He is a graduate of Stanford University with a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science, graduating with distinction and received his J:D. at Harvard Law School where he was Special Project Editor of the ***Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.***

A Washington, D.C. public defender for seven years, Professor Ogletree has received numerous awards including the National Conference of Black Lawyers " People's Lawyer of the Year Award," " The Man of Vision Award" from the Museum of Afro-American History in Boston, The 1993 Albert Sacks-Paul A. Freund Award for Teaching Excellence at Harvard Law School, and in 1995, The ***Ellis Island Medal of Honor***

and Ruffin-Fenwick Trailblazer Award named in honor of the first African-American man and woman to graduate from Harvard Law School. In 1996 the National Bar Association honored him with its ***Presidential Award*** for "The Renaissance Man of the Legal Profession." This year he has received the International House of Blues Foundation Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, The Justice Louis Brandeis Medal for Public Service, and the 21st Century Achievement Award from the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. Charles Ogletree served as the moderator of four of Producer Fred Friendly's ten-part series ***"Ethics in America"*** which aired on PBS in 1989 and also in PBS production ***Hard Drugs, Hard Choices*** in 1990. Since 1990 he has moderated dozens of similar programs, including ***Liberty & Limits: Whose Law, Whose Order?*** which aired on PBS in April of 1997 and ***Credibility in the Newsroom*** which aired in April 1998. Professor Ogletree has also appeared as a guest commentator on ***Nightline, This Week with David Brinkley, McNeil-Lehrer News Hour, Crossfire, The Today Show, Good Morning America, Larry King Live, Cochran & Company, Burden of Proof, and Meet the Press*** as well as other national and local television and radio programs. Professor Ogletree also served as legal commentator for NBC on the O.J. Simpson case.

Professor Ogletree has been married to his fellow Stanford graduate, Pamela Barnes, since 1975 and they are the proud parents of two children, one attending Florida A & M, the other at Columbia University.

Special Thanks to the
Graduation Committee

Roxbury Community College
1234 Columbus Avenue
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120
Tel: 617/ 427-0060